



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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November 05, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3-P November 5, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES FOR THE LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (FIRST DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to La Plaza de Cultura y Artes for general improvements to its campus in downtown Los Angeles.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to La Plaza de Cultura y Artes for the proposed La Plaza de Cultura y Artes Outdoor Improvements Project.
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to La Plaza de Cultura y Artes for the proposed La Plaza de Cultura y Artes Outdoor Improvements Project after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply to La Plaza de Cultura y Artes and if applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a grant to La Plaza de Cultura y Artes (La Plaza) for the proposed La Plaza de Cultura y Artes Outdoor Improvements Project (Project).

On October 15, 2013, the Board awarded a \$773,000 grant of Specified Excess Funds to Amigos de los Rios (ADLR) for the proposed Project. La Plaza has since taken over responsibility for the Project. As such, the grant is now being recommended for award to La Plaza, and all unexpended funds previously awarded to ADLR will return to the Excess Funds account.

La Plaza is a non-profit organization which promotes and nurtures an appreciation for the enduring and evolving influence of Mexican and Mexican-American culture. La Plaza's 2.2-acre campus, located in the El Pueblo Historic District of downtown Los Angeles, includes two historic buildings surrounded by approximately 30,000 square feet of public gardens. La Plaza's interactive exhibits and dynamic programs offers visitors the opportunity to explore as well as contribute to the ongoing story of Mexican-Americans in Los Angeles and beyond.

The proposed Project consists of general improvements to La Plaza's campus, including, landscaping, lighting, removal of two coral trees and purchase and installation of approximately twenty-three new shade trees, and installation of a shade structure. The overall project cost is estimated at \$1,200,000 and is fully funded by the recommended Specified Excess Funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grant after MRCA assigns the right to apply to La Plaza and only if applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project. It is also recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by improving outdoor recreational opportunities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant, in the amount of \$1,200,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe

Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. MRCA and La Plaza have each met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

On October 15, 2013, the Board found this project to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director, and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Grant Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/5/2014

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors